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SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE - REFORMING THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REF: STATE 114051

1. (SBU) On June 21 emboff delivered demarche and talking points to Faruque Faquira, Chief of Department for United Nations issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Faquira was familiar with the issue at hand and had recently been briefed by his Ministry on the U.S. consultations with the Africa Group, as discussed in reftel. Faquira also mentioned that he and others in his department had been in contact with other African delegations in recent days to get a better understanding on what the GRM,s position should be on this issue. He declined to say if any non-African governments had contacted the GRM about the UNCHR in recent days.

2. (SBU) Faquira said that Mozambique,s principal concern about the UN Commission on Human Rights is that it tends to "politicize" human rights by only focusing on a handful of countries that have already been "tried and found guilty in the court of public opinion." He added that the Commission had not shown enough interest in economic and social concerns of developing countries. (Comment: Each of these comments can be seen as a reference to Zimbabwe and Mozambique,s unease about further isolating a country whose economic collapse has greatly affected the economy of central Mozambique. When asked about Zimbabwe, however, Faquira switched the topic to Sudan. End Comment.) Faquira said that the GRM had no philosophical questions with reforming the present Human Rights Commission - which Mozambique also views as inadequate - by remaking it into a smaller and more proactive Human Rights Council. Mozambique would only be supportive of such a move, however, if the aforementioned concerns were met in a substantive manner, and as long as Africa and other undeveloped nations retained a strong position in the organization's structure and membership.

3. (SBU) Emboff responded by emphasizing USG talking points on the Council's mandate, structure, and membership. Faquira seemed particularly impressed with the proposed structure and membership for a 20-nation Council, which he said was a more favorable proposal than what he was expecting. He was less clear about the talking points on the Council's mandate, but offered no criticisms. Emboff also outlined the "additional clarifying points" on economic and social rights, which Faquira seemed to view as a step in the right direction but not ideal.

Wysham